

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
a transparent cover for providing a linear image reading region that has a first length;
a light source for generating light directed toward the linear image reading region on the
transparent cover;
a plurality of light-receiving elements that output image signals corresponding to
received light;
~~a plurality of lenses~~ an array of lenses that focuses light onto the light-receiving
elements; ~~and~~ the array of lenses having a second length that is greater than the first length; and
a light-shielding member;
wherein all of the light-receiving elements are arranged in a single line having ~~an~~
~~extremity,~~ a first extremity and a second extremity, the first extremity extending beyond the first
length of the image reading region by a first amount, the second extremity extending beyond the
first length of the image reading region by a second amount which is smaller than the first
amount, the light-shielding member covering at least one light-receiving element disposed at the
~~extremity~~ first extremity outside the first length of the linear reading region but inside the second
length of the lens array.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein remaining light-receiving elements other than the covered light-receiving element or elements are exposed.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the covered light-receiving element is arranged to avoid direct facing to an object to be read out.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding member comprises one of a metal layer and a nonmetal layer.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the nonmetal layer is made of a paint material.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light-shielding member is black.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a semiconductor chip in which the plurality of light-receiving elements are built in.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the light-shielding member covers a part of the semiconductor chip in addition to said one light-receiving element disposed at the first extremity.

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9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an additional semiconductor chip in which a plurality of identical light-receiving elements are built in, wherein all of the identical light-receiving elements are exposed.